

Sadaqa tul Fitr and Fidyah

Sadaqat ul Fitr is Wajib on every person. It is Wajib on every Muslim who is not a slave, and whose *Nisab*¹ exceeds his needs. Being Sane, Adult, and having an increasing wealth is not a condition for this. A person who has *Nisab*, it is Wajib for him to pay for himself, and also for his minor children. That is when the children do not have *Nisab*. If they do have *Nisab* then Sadaqat ul Fitr can be paid from their wealth. Ramadan fasting is not a condition to pay Sadaqat ul Fitr. If one did not fast due to a valid excuse (such as travel, disease, or old-age) or even if he skipped fasting without an excuse then still he has to pay the Sadaqat ul Fitr. If the father is not there, then the Grandfather (Father of Father) will be his substitute. He will have to give the Sadaqat ul Fitr on behalf of his orphan grandchildren. One can pay Sadaqat ul Fitr any time in his life, but it is Sunnah to pay it before the Eid Salah. (Extracted from Bahar e Shariat)

From which items can one pay Sadaqat ul Fitr?

Hadith: عن ابن عمر رضي الله عنهما: ان رسول الله ﷺ فرض زكاة الفطر صاعاً من تمر أو صاعاً من شعير على كل حر أو عبد ذكر أو أنثى من المسلمين.

Translation: On the authority of Sayyiduna Ibn Umar (May Allah be pleased with them both): that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ made it obligatory to pay one Sa'a of dates or barley as Sadaqa-tul-Fitr on all the slave or free, male or female from the Muslims. (Bukhari 1504)

Hadith: عن أبي سعيد الخدري قال: كنا نخرج زكاة الفطر عن ثلاثة أصناف لا قط، والتير، والشعير

Translation: Sayyiduna Abu Sa'id al Khudri reported, we used to take out the Zakat of Fitr in three kinds; cheese, dates and barley. (Sahih Muslim 985 d)

Hadith: عن أبي سعيد الخدري: كنا نخرج زكاة الفطر إذ كان فينا رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم صاعاً من طعامٍ أو صاعاً من شعيرٍ أو صاعاً من تمرٍ أو صاعاً من زبيبٍ أو صاعاً من أقطٍ

Translation: Abu Sa'eed Al-Khudri narrated, "We would give Zakat Al-Fitr - when the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was among us - as a Sa'a of food, or a Sa'a of barely, or a Sa'a of dried dates, or a Sa'a of raisins, or a Sa'a of cheese. (Tirmidhi 673)

Hadith: عن الحسن. قال خطب ابن عباس رحمة الله في آخر رمضان على من تبر البصرة فقال أخرجو صدقة صومكمة فكان الناس لم يعلموا فقال من ها هنا من أهل المدينة قوما إلى إخوانكم فعلبوا هم فإنهم لا يعلمون فرض رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم هذه الصدقة صاعاً من تمر أو شعير أو نصف صاع من قمح على كل حمر أو مملوك ذكر أو أنثى صغير أو كبار

¹ Nisab is the minimum amount which obligates a Muslim to pay Charity (along with some other conditions).

Translation: Imam Al-Hasan Al-Basri said, Ibn Abbas gave Khutba on the pulpit (in the mosque) of Basrah towards the end of Ramadan. He said: Bring forth the sadaqah relating to your fast. The people, as it were, could not understand. Which of the people of Madinah are present here? Stand for your brothers, and teach them, for they do not know. The Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) prescribed this Sadaqah as one Sa'a of dried dates or barley, or half a Sa'a of wheat payable by every freeman or slave, male or female, young or old. (Sunan Abi Dawud 1622)

حَدِيثٌ عَنْ أَبْنَى عَبَّاسٍ. قَالَ فَرَضَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ زَكَاةَ الْفِطْرِ طُهْرَةً لِلصَّائِمِ مِنَ الْلَّغُوِ وَالرَّفِثِ وَطُعْمَةً لِلْمَسَاكِينِ فَمَنْ أَدَّاهَا قَبْلَ الصَّلَاةِ فَهِيَ زَكَاةً مَقْبُولَةً وَمَنْ أَدَّاهَا بَعْدَ الصَّلَاةِ فَهِيَ صَدَقَةً مِنَ الصَّدَقَاتِ.

Translation: Sayyiduna Ibn Abbas said: "The Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) obligated Zakatul-Fitr as purification for the fasting person from useless speech and obscenities, and to feed the poor. Whoever pays it before the (Eid) prayer, it is an accepted Zakah, and whoever pays it after the prayer, it is (ordinary) charity." (Ibn Majah 1827)

The items which can be paid as Sadaqa tul Fitr:

1) Wheat	3) Cheese	5) Barley
2) Dates	4) Raisins	

The weight for Sadaqa tul Fitr: Dates, Cheese, Raisins, and Barley will be one Sa'a, while Wheat would be Half a Sa'a.

Sa'a: This is the measurement which was used by Arabs in the old days. In today's day, the people of knowledge have laid out various weights as conversion. We have preferred the opinions of two great Scholars of India, the late Shaykh ul Hadith of Al Jamia tul Ashrafiya – Hazrat Allama Hafiz Abdul Rauf Balyawi (May Allah be pleased with him), and the late Mufti of Dar ul Uloom Manzar ul Islam Bareli Shareef – Hazrat Allama Mufti Sayyid Afzal Hussain Mongiri (May Allah be pleased with him). According to this, one Sa'a comes out to be 4.090 Kg, and half a Sa'a would come out to be 2.045 Kg. The attached chart has laid this out.

Amount of Fidyah: The Fidyah for every fast is half Sa'a wheat meaning Rs. 175.50, or the double of that which is Rs. 391. (Fatawa Amjadiya, Vol 1, Page 397, Mas'ala 555, Kitab ul Saum).

A glance at the modern measurements of Sa'a:

One Sa'a	4.090 Kg	9.017 lbs
Half Sa'a	2.045 Kg	4.508 lbs

Note: Fidyah is only for *Shaykh e Faani*², or for such a diseased person for whom the expert doctors have confirmed as incurable. In any case, if the Fidyah was given because of a certain disease and then later that person got cured, that Fidyah is now not enough. That person will have to make up the missed fasts.

Moreover, all of the amounts mentioned in the attached charts are calculated for Houston and nearby areas. Therefore, one should look at the market value in his own town when paying Sadaqa tul Fitri or Fidyah using these measurements.

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² A person who is so old that due to his old age he cannot be expected to have strength to observe Fast throughout the year nor it can be expected that he will be able to regain strength.